were oblong-ovate, slightly cordate at the base, tapering, *deeply serrate, each segment in turn being sharply toothed.* This fringed appearance of the leaves, and the gracefully horizontal "set" of the branches gave the tree a very ornamental effect. The tree was not in fruit.

Only one tree was found at the time, but further investigation may bring to light other specimens in the same locality, and in this way it will be determined whether the tree is a mere freak — to which the birch is subject — or a well established variety. — Samuel N. F. Sanford, Fall River, Massachusetts.

NOTEWORTHY PLANTS OF CONNECTICUT.

E. B. Harger.

Some twenty years ago my father and myself had *Symphytum asperrimum*, Sims, and *Vincetoxicum nigrum*, Moench, growing in our garden at Oxford. Twelve years ago we left the house and it went into the hands of persons who paid no attention to the preservation of these species. In the summer of 1900, however, I found both growing by the roadside, the former opposite the garden and the latter about two hundred feet distant. As both had increased somewhat last summer, they may probably be regarded as established.

In May, 1901, I found growing in a meadow in Oxford a clump of *Narcissus poeticus*, L., with seven flowering stalks. There is an old cellar in the same field but the house is said to have been in ruins sixty years ago so that the plant has probably maintained itself for that length of time.

A single tree of *Abies balsamea*, Miller, stands in an old pasture in Middlebury. It is nearly a quarter of a mile from the nearest house and until five years ago was as far from the nearest highway. It can hardly be native or planted but is possibly an escape from cultivation.

The preceding are, so far as I know, not previously reported from this state. The following stations for rare species may be of interest: —

Nephrodium simulatum, Davenp. In a deep swamp at Moose Hill, Oxford.

Carex pedunculata, Muhl. Fairly abundant at two stations in Oxford, about two miles apart, growing on steep wooded banks; in one

case beside the Housatonic River and in the other beside one of its tributaries.

Silene Armeria, L. A frequent escape at Seymour.

Lychnis Chalcedonica, L. Southbury.

Draba Caroliniana, Walt. Dry sandy soil near the Housatonic River, 1½ miles above Zoar Bridge, Oxford.

Arabis confinis, Wats. Lisbon. Bank of the Quinebaug River about 1 mile below Jewett City. Here are found also *Juncus Greenei*, Oakes & Tuckerm., *Antennaria Canadensis*, Greene, and what appeared to be *Polygala Nuttallii*, Torr. & Gray, but the material was too scanty for certain determination.

Agrimonia parviflora, Soland. Southbury. This species should be credited to Mr. C. H. Bissell who was first to discover it.

Euphorbia corollata, L. Two plants in grass-land, Oxford.

Hottonia inflata, Ell. Orange. One-fourth mile northeast of the village. Previously discovered by Mr. C. K. Averill.

Stachys palustris, L. Oxford. One mile south of the village.

OXFORD, CONNECTICUT.

In his OUTLINES OF BOTANY[1] Mr. Leavitt has produced a textbook of more than ordinary interest. The work is based upon Dr. Gray's Lessons in Botany, a book which in its several editions has enjoyed great popularity and a continuous usefulness for more than sixty years. This unparalleled success of the Lessons has doubtless been due to its scientific accuracy, remarkable terseness, and unexcelled lucidity, rather than to its pedagogical method. This method was essentially dogmatic throughout. Indeed, the Lessons were prepared at a time when this form of teaching was the approved one, and when it was still possible to state dogmatically many points in morphology, which now in the light of more recent investigation have to be qualified by restriction and exceptions. During the last three decades there has been a great change in the methods of presenting botany in our better high schools. The memorizing of definitions from a book is no longer the aim. There is less study of abstract morphology and less attention to external form. Classifica-

[1] Outlines of Botany for the High School Laboratory and Class-room by R. G. Leavitt, A. M. 8vo, 272, pp. Prepared at the request of the Botanical Department of Harvard University, American Book Co., New York.